



# Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad  
Governor

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Lt. Governor

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Director

## INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1407

**DATE:** August 1, 2014

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Nursing Facilities, Skilled Nursing Facilities, and Nursing Facilities for Persons with Mental Illness

**FROM:** Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

**RE:** Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) Changes

**EFFECTIVE:** August 1, 2014

The Iowa Department of Human Services contracts with Ascend Management Innovations to provide PASRR reviews. There will be important changes to PASRR processes in the coming months.

### **Specialized Services (SS) Reviews**

Starting August 1, 2014, Ascend will begin a new follow-up process for PASRR Level II specialized services (SS) recommendations. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have indicated their commitment to ensuring that states monitor the delivery of services required through the PASRR evaluation. To fulfill this requirement, Ascend will conduct random look-behind reviews to ensure that SS recommendations are being included in individual care plans.

In this SS review process, Ascend will begin faxing Requests for Information to your facility that will include detailed response instructions and associated response due dates. Included in the request will be tasks to be completed, such as completing the Iowa document based review (DBR) form. The DBR form is to be returned along with the care plan and other documentation to Ascend via fax or email. In August and September 2014, Ascend will conduct the SS reviews on a percentage of cases that receive SS recommendations. Beginning in October 2014, 100 percent of Level II SS recommendations and subsequent care plans will be reviewed.

### **Tracking System**

A new web-based tracking system will be offered to nursing facilities. This tracking system will allow facilities to log into Ascend's site to access several helpful functions, including:

- Reporting residents who have been admitted, discharged, and transferred.
- Access to previously completed PASRR determinations for residents.
- Uploading documents directly to Ascend rather than faxing them (including documents requested in the SS review process and the Level I review process to begin in October).
- Alerting facilities when residents' short-term approvals are nearing expiration.

**Other Changes**

On October 1, 2014, Ascend will begin making time-limited approvals for some Level II determinations. Also at this time, Ascend will begin reviewing Level I screens to measure and report the quality of information provided.

**Training Opportunity**

During the week of September 22, 2014, Ascend will hold daily WebEx (webinar) training sessions on the new tracking system. These training sessions will prepare participants for the changes and how to use the tracking system for more efficient workflow process. These sessions will also offer participants the opportunity to address questions regarding other changes taking place beginning October 1, 2014. Further information on specific dates/times, how to register, and who should participate will be sent in mid-August through email notification from Ascend and an additional Informational Letter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ascend at (877) 431-1388, or Lila Starr, Iowa PASRR Program Manager at 515-281-5318. Thank you for your commitment to provide the best quality services for the citizens of Iowa.